

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on May 13, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 remain in this application, where claims 10-18 have been added and claims 1, 4 and 14 are independent.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 2-3, 5-7 and 9 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', and changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--. Such amendments to claims 2-3, 5-7 and 9 were not made in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claim 4 contains patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include a feature of allowable claim 4. Further, claim 4 has been rewritten in

independent form without including features that are believed to be not necessary for patentability. In addition, claim 14 has been added that includes a feature of the allowable claim 4.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1, 4 and 14 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-3, 5-13 and 15-18 should also be allowed based at least on their dependence from independent claims 1, 4 and 14.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By s/Dicran Halajian/  
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

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**THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP**  
Applied Technology Center  
111 West Main Street  
Bay Shore, NY 11706  
Tel: (631) 665-5139  
Fax: (631) 665-5101

By s/Chris M. Ries/  
Chris M. Ries, Reg. 45,799  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
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**PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
& STANDARDS**  
345 Scarborough Rd.  
P.O. Box 3001  
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001  
Tel: (914) 333-9632  
Fax: (914) 332-0615